

have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Christopher Tantillo, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING GUY GABALDON

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise today to pay tribute to all U.S. service members and veterans for their service and dedication to our Nation. During Hispanic Heritage Month, we would like to pay special tribute to service members and veterans of Hispanic decent who have served with pride, valor and distinction since the revolutionary war.

In particular, we want to recognize World War II veteran Guy Gabaldon, who passed away recently. Born in Los Angeles, California on March 22, 1926, Mr. Gabaldon grew up in Boyle Heights. He died on August 31, 2006 in Old Town, Florida. Mr. Gabaldon is an excellent example of the dedication that Latinos in uniform have demonstrated while providing the highest service to our country.

As a child, Marine Private First Class Guy "Gabby" Gabaldon, befriended and eventually moved in with a Japanese American family. When the U.S. entered WWII, Gabaldon joined the Marines, and served as a mortar crewman and scout observer. Through his familiarity with the Japanese language and culture, Mr. Gabaldon gained the distinction of capturing more enemy soldiers than anyone else in the history of U.S. military conflicts.

While serving in Saipan, he received a Silver Star for obtaining vital information and capturing more than 1,000 enemy personnel in the face of direct fire. PFC Gabaldon was able to persuade the weakened Japanese soldiers to surrender, in spite of their orders to fight. His commanding officer and fellow Marines nominated him for the Medal of Honor. He was awarded the Silver Star, which was elevated to a Navy Cross in December of 1960.

Mr. Gabaldon and the more than one million Latino service members and veterans deserve our gratitude and admiration. They have always been an integral part in the fabric of our military. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Gabaldon, and all of our nation's Latino service members and veterans.

HONORING DR. RICHARD P. HALLION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Richard P. Hallion, who is retiring as Senior Adviser for Air and Space Issues at the Directorate for Security, Counterintelligence and Special Programs Oversight at the Pentagon. His distinguished career and record of achievement reflects selfless commitment to our country.

Dr. Hallion graduated from the University of Maryland in 1970, and completed the Kennedy School of Government's National Security Studies Program in 1993. His career spanned a variety of offices, including the working at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Andrews Air Force Base, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Air Force Centennial Flight Office, and the National Air and Space Museum. His experience and education has afforded him the opportunity to author numerous articles and books on the evolution and history of airborne warfare. Tirelessly, Dr. Hallion continues to write to this day.

Dr. Hallion has been recognized numerous times for his hard work and dedication to military aviation. In 2005, he received the Annual Award of the Conference of Historic Aviation Writers, and was recognized as a Distinguished Lecturer and Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He has received similar recognition from the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, the Aviation Space Writers Association, the Air Force Association and the Air Force Systems Command.

His contributions to the Air Force will be missed as he moves on to new and exciting opportunities. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Richard P. Hallion and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO HONOR JACOB BIRNBAUM

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, with the approach of International Human Rights Day on December 10, I would like to take this opportunity to chronicle for the national record the life and work of a remarkable human rights activist, Jacob Birnbaum of New York. It is interesting to note that he was actually born on December 10, 1926. As December 10, 2006 will mark his 80th birthday, it is entirely appropriate that his work should be portrayed in the RECORD of the Congress of the United States.

Jacob Birnbaum's immediate family fled the Nazis and settled in the United Kingdom. In 1946, following the end of World War II, the 19-year-old Jacob Birnbaum devoted several years to providing relief for younger survivors of the Nazi and Soviet totalitarian systems. From the young Polish Jews who managed to exit the USSR after the war, he became familiar with the iniquities of the Soviet system. This early experience fueled his later passion to mobilize American Jewry in the drive to rescue Jews from the oppression they faced in the Soviet Union.

In the mid-1950s and early 1960s, he became involved in assisting people from the disintegrating Jewish communities of North Africa caught up in the struggles of their host countries for independence from France.

Thereafter, traveling the United States, he decided to create a national student spearhead to activate the grassroots of American Jewry. Settling in New York in 1964, he set up his first student committee; then he concentrated on building a student core at Yeshiva University. Finally, he called a national

founding meeting at Columbia University on April 27, 1964, followed by a large student demonstration four days later on the Soviet holiday May Day in front of the Soviet UN Mission. The authoritative Center for Jewish History has listed the demonstration as the beginning of the public struggle for Soviet Jewry. Mr. Birnbaum named the new organization Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ).

Throughout the rest of the 1960s, under his direction, the Student Struggle continued working full time in response to the oppression of Soviet Jewry.

As we know, the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led to the imprisonment of Soviet Jews behind the Iron Curtain. Jewish culture, Jewish religion and Jewish communal life were forcibly extinguished under the Soviet regime, which also indulged in numerous anti-Semitic manifestations. Even after Stalin's death, the Soviet kingdom of fear abated only slightly. The Cold War effectively continued to cut off the Jews of Russia and Eastern Europe from their co-religionists in the West.

Nevertheless, expressions of outrage began to accumulate in the early 1960s, with a few pioneers leading the way. In April, 1964 the major Jewish organizations met in Washington, DC and an American Conference on Soviet Jewry was established. The same month, Mr. Birnbaum created the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry for the purpose of fashioning a student spearhead to "mobilize a tidal wave of public opinion." (First SSSJ Handbook)

After the mass arrests of young Jewish dissidents on June 15, 1970, and after the Leningrad Trial of December 1970 with its death sentences, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry was created. The Greater New York Conference, under the direction of the young activist Malcolm Hoenlein, initiated the profoundly important Solidarity Day marches, modeled after Birnbaum's Jericho, Redemption, and Exodus Marches and rallies of the 1960s. Mr. Hoenlein is now the Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Of great significance was the creation in 1970 of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, a coalition of non-Establishment regional groups, under the chairmanship of Dr. Louis Rosenblum, with whom Mr. Birnbaum had worked for many years.

Mr. Hoenlein has publicly stated that he considers Mr. Birnbaum "the father of the Soviet Jewry movement." Similar statements have been made by other major public figures such as Dr. Meir Rosenne, who worked closely with Mr. Birnbaum in the early formative period 1964-1967. Dr. Rosenne later became Israel's Ambassador to France and then to the United States. Sir Martin Gilbert, the official British historian of Winston Churchill, has made a similar statement.

In May, 1965, Mr. Birnbaum was the first to testify before a Congressional Committee on the importance of utilizing economic leverage on the Kremlin. When the late Senator Henry Jackson initiated the legislation which finally resulted in the passage of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment in 1975, Mr. Birnbaum worked closely with the director of Senator Jackson's office, Dorothy Fosdick, and, of course, Richard Perle, who played a major role in the initiation and development of the legislation.

The idea of placing economic pressure on Communist states to increase emigration